

Phasing Out Methyl Bromide in China: A Developing Country Initiative

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Poster Presentation by the UNEP TIE OzonAction Programme

Background:

Upon the request of the government of China, and with approved funding from the Multilateral Fund of the Montreal Protocol, the UNEP TIE OzonAction Programme and the China State Environmental Protection Administration (SEPA) initiated the development of a strategic framework to control methyl bromide in China.

China is both a consumer and producer of methyl bromide. It's consumption is expected to increase dramatically over the next few years, from 3,250 t in 1998 to approximately 6,400 in 2002. Both soil fumigation uses and quarantine uses are predicted to increase by a large percentage during the period 2000-2001. Currently production capacity in China is 3,400 tonnes per year, with imports amounting to 1500 tonnes a year.

In a consultative workshop held in July this year, the draft of the strategic framework was discussed and consultations were held with the various stakeholders, including the background data needed for the strategy. Priorities were set for an Action Plan that identified short, medium and long term policy and research options, and how this would fit within China's existing regulatory structure.

China is committed to phasing out methyl bromide within the control measures set out under the Montreal Protocol, and the development and subsequent approval of this strategic framework is the first step in ensuring that this objective will be met.

Description of the Poster Presentation:

The poster presentation will highlight the following:

- **Description, Objectives and Expected Outputs of the Project**

The preparation of a strategic framework will assist China in developing a strategy to prevent the growth of methyl bromide use considering that China is both a producer and a large consumer of methyl bromide with a potential for rapid growth. Such policy plan will also contribute to China's phase out strategy in the methyl bromide sector. Such policy plan is expected to reduce the costs to the Multilateral Fund of MB phase out in China in future.

- **Activities initiated by UNEP TIE OzonAction programme and SEPA to develop the strategic framework to control methyl bromide in China**

This will briefly describe the various initiatives done by both UNEP and SEPA, including the formation of a Methyl Bromide Working Group within SEPA to include other relevant ministries, and ensure that a wider consultation process is done.

- **Consumption and production of methyl bromide in China, including forecasts for growth**

Figures and statistics for methyl bromide consumption in China for pre-plant and soil disinfestation, durables and perishable commodities (non-QPS uses), QPS applications, and use of MB as a chemical feedstock .

- **Status of Chemical and non-chemical alternatives in China**

A number of both chemical and non-chemical alternatives are being considered in China as possible alternatives to methyl bromide. Although some of them are available commercially, most of these are still in the trial stage. Difficulties and barriers to their use will be shown.

- **Demonstration Projects on Methyl Bromide Alternatives in China**

A demonstration project was carried out by UNIDO through the Institute of Plant Protection of the Chinese Academy of Sciences on alternatives to methyl bromide in soil fumigation in China. The alternatives demonstrated included the floating seed tray method for tobacco, solarization, use of resistant cultivars, use of steam, chloropicrin, avermectin, etc. Results were promising for some if not all of these alternatives demonstrated.

- **Action Plan for Policy, Research and Training**

Description of an Action Plan of what China considers as priority areas where immediate results can be gathered for policy, research and training, including identification of difficulties and barriers. This will also include an explanation on how short, medium and long term options were classified.